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ABSTRACT

Changing the dramatic play area in a child care setting promotes creativity and gives children the chance to experience a place they may never experience in real life. Whenever possible, the children should be involved in the process of changing the area, by moving furniture and exchanging props, as well as brainstorming ideas for changes. The dramatic play area can be changed as little as once or twice a year, or with every theme, depending on the setting and the children. When available, donated items are good and less expensive additions to the dramatic play area. Real items as well as pretend items can be used at all times, to contribute to both the creativity and the excitement of children's dramatic play. This booklet provides sketches of several dramatic play settings, including a list of possible materials. Illustrations are provided for a: (1) kitchen or restaurant; (2) office; (3) animal hospital; (4) campground; (5) rain forest; (6) space; (7) ocean; (8) beach; (9) museum; (10) theater; (11) doctor's office; (12) court room; (13) fire station; (14) police station; (15) fix-it shop; (16) beauty parlor; (17) cruise ship; and (18) box land. (AC)

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ASTRONAUT TO ZOOLOGIST: CHANGING THE DRAMATIC PLAY AREA!

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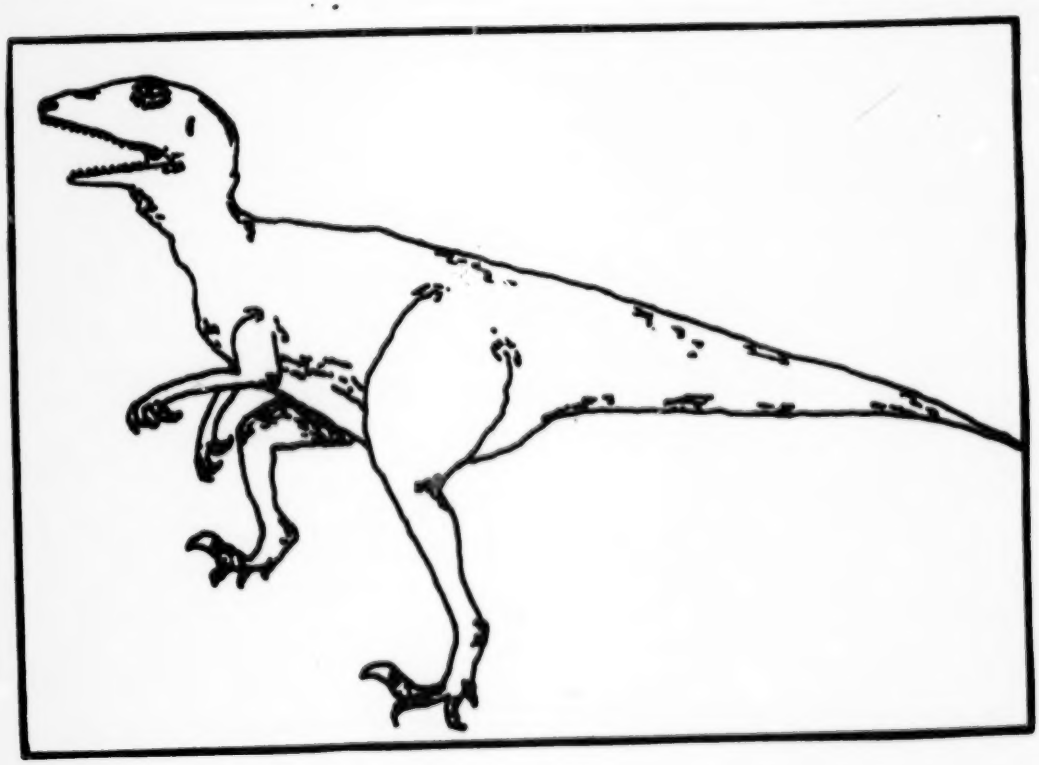

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Changing the dramatic play area can be a fun and exciting change for any child care setting. When at all possible the children should be involved in the process of the change. The children can help to physically change the area (moving furniture, exchanging props, etc.) as well as brainstorming ideas for changes in the area. The dramatic play area can be changed as little as once or twice a year, or with every theme, depending on the setting and the children. A group that does not adjust to change readily would not benefit from frequent changes to the area.

When available donated items are great (as well as less expensive) additions to the dramatic play area. Real items as well as pretend items can be used at all times, both contribute to the creativity and the excitement of children's dramatic play.

The following illustrations are one way to create fascinating and creative settings for the dramatic play area. By no means are they the only way. Each year the settings change as the children change, ideas are different and the play is different from day to day and year to year.

The purpose of changing the dramatic play area is to promote creativity and to give the children the chance to experience a place they may never (but, hopefully will) experience in real life!

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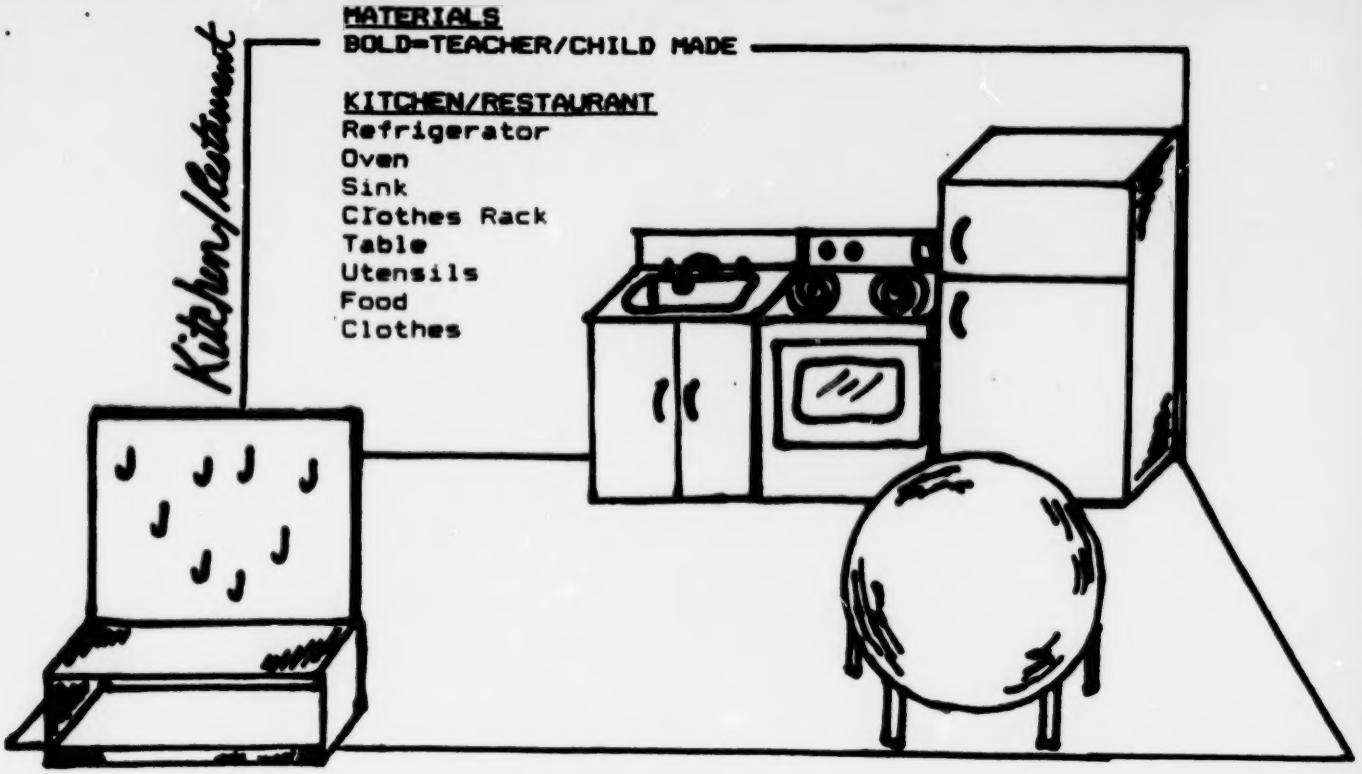
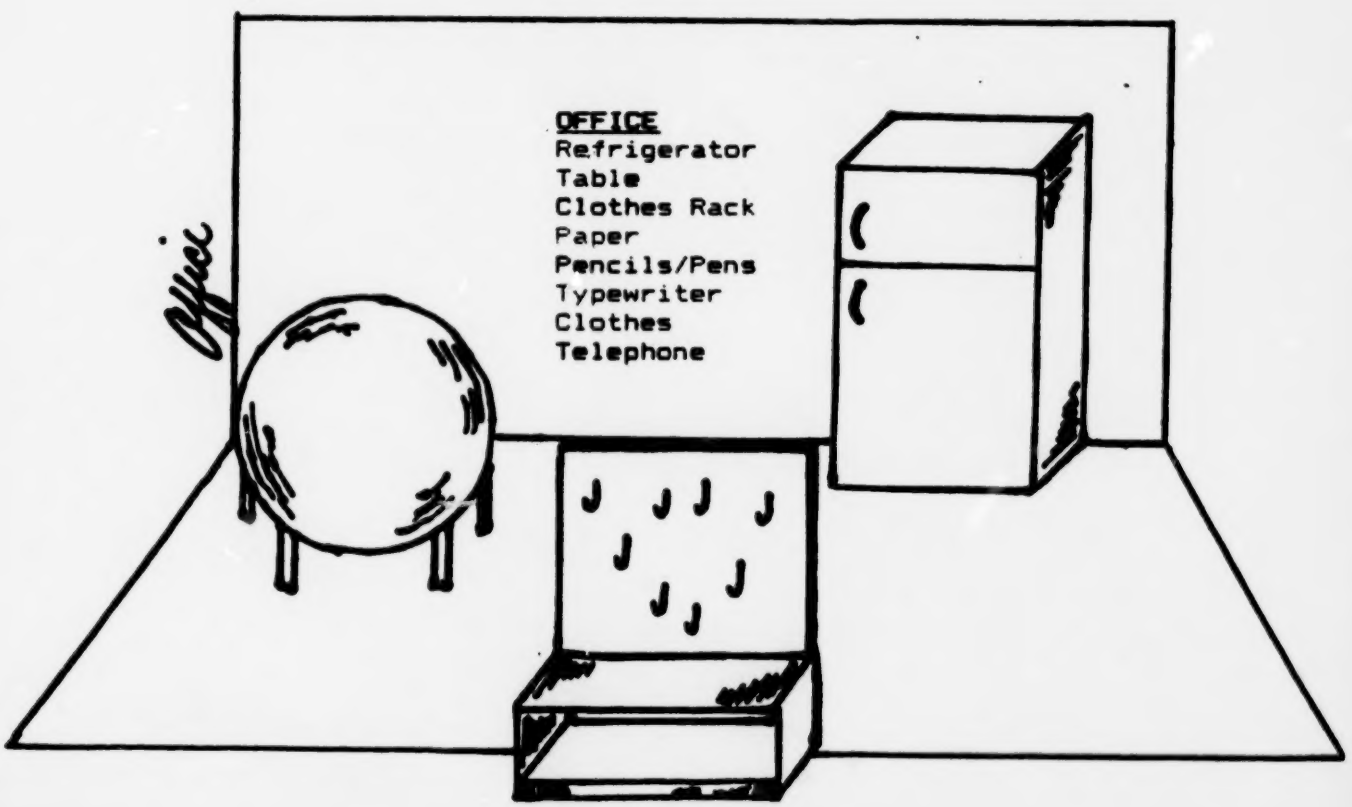
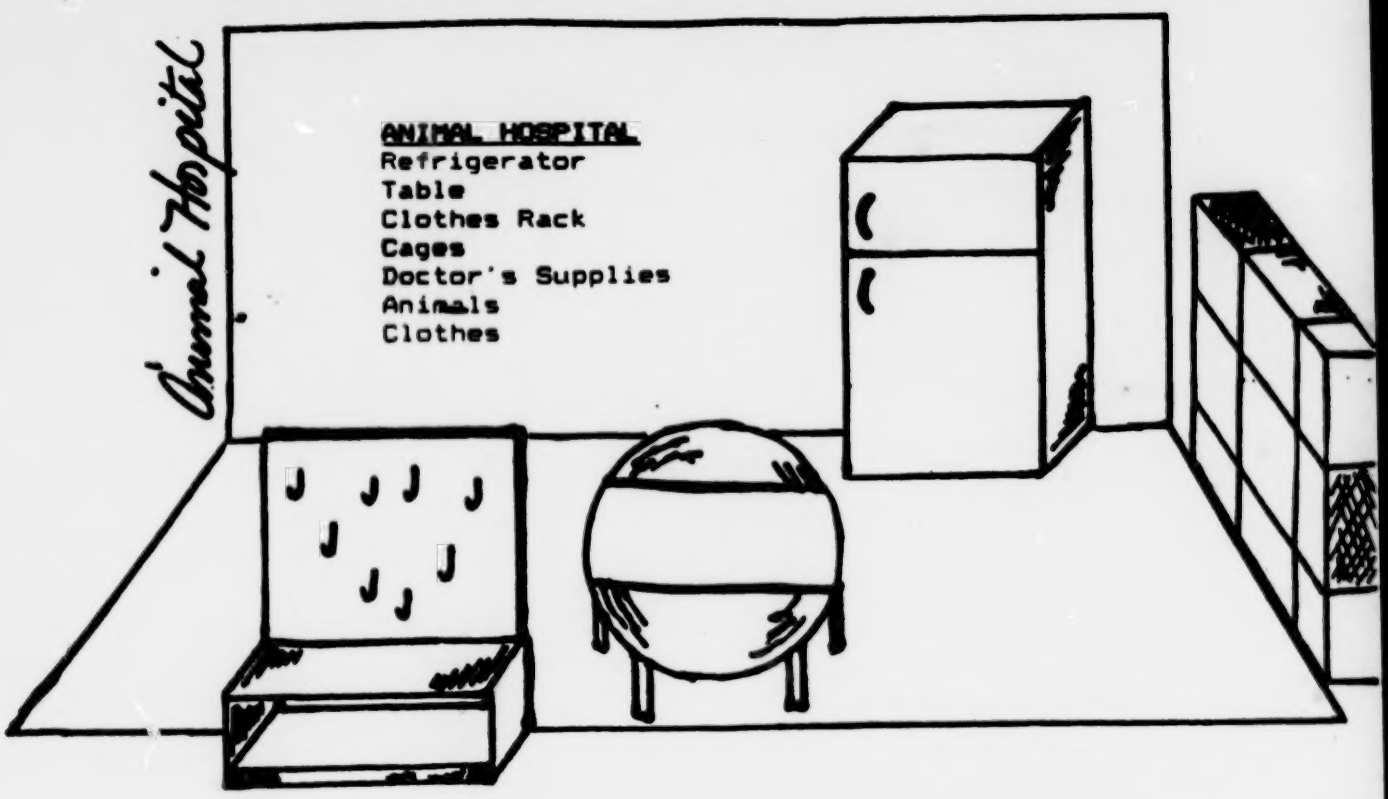
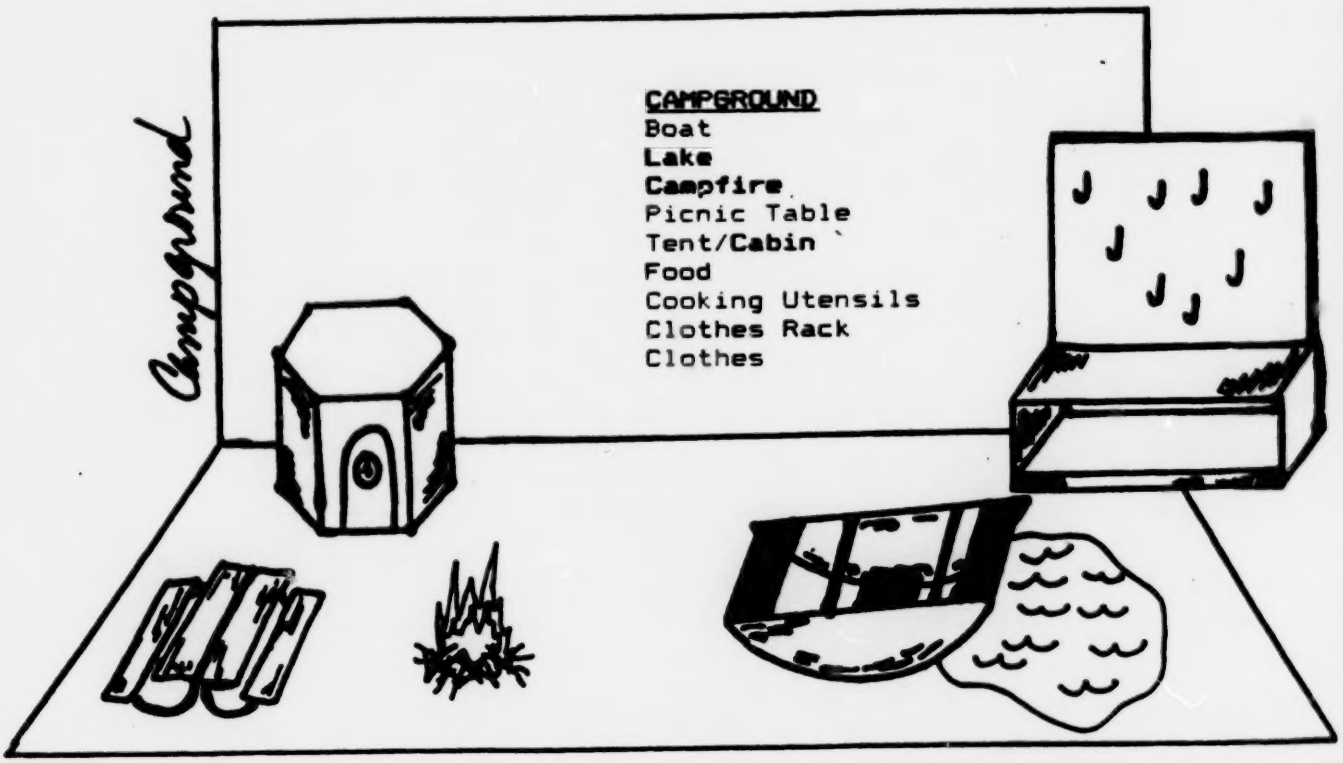
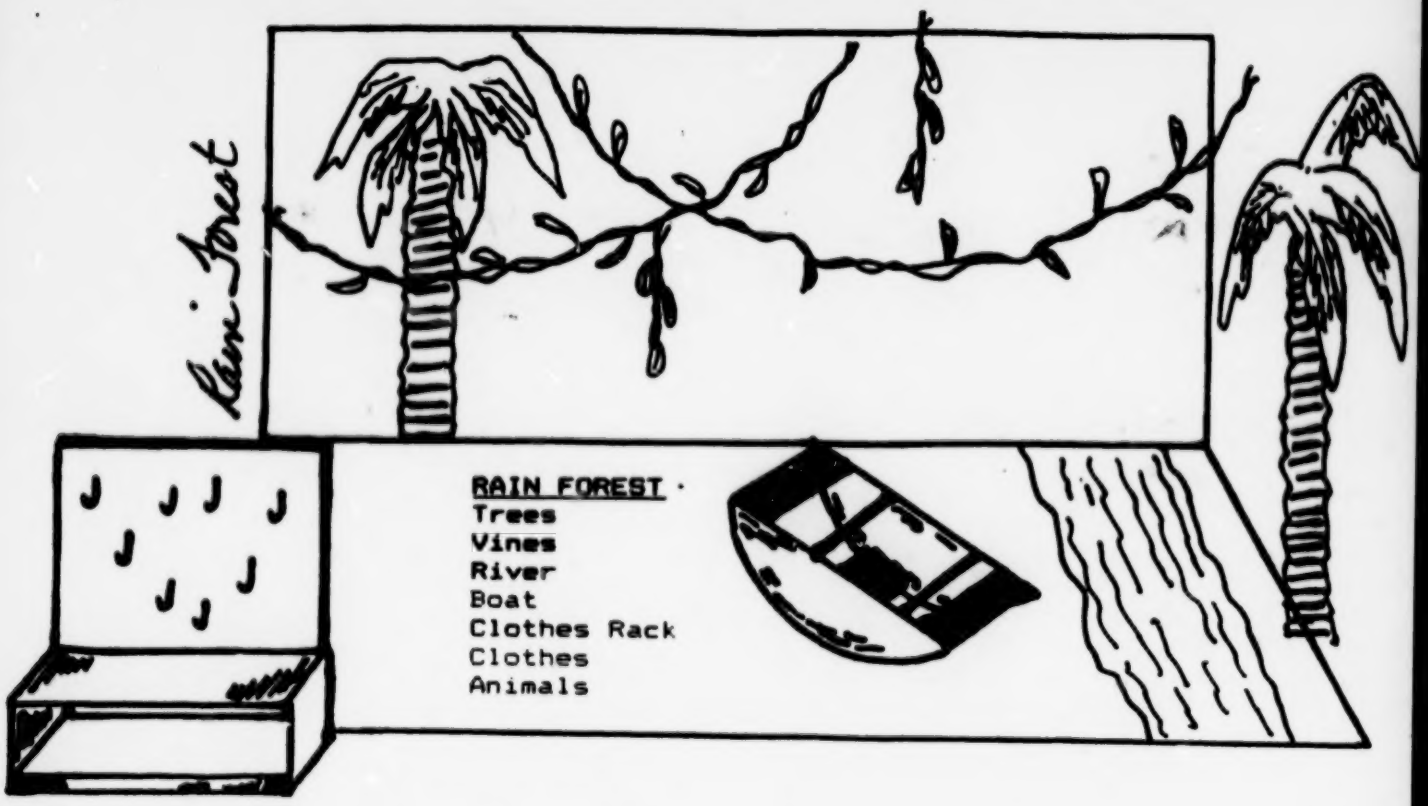
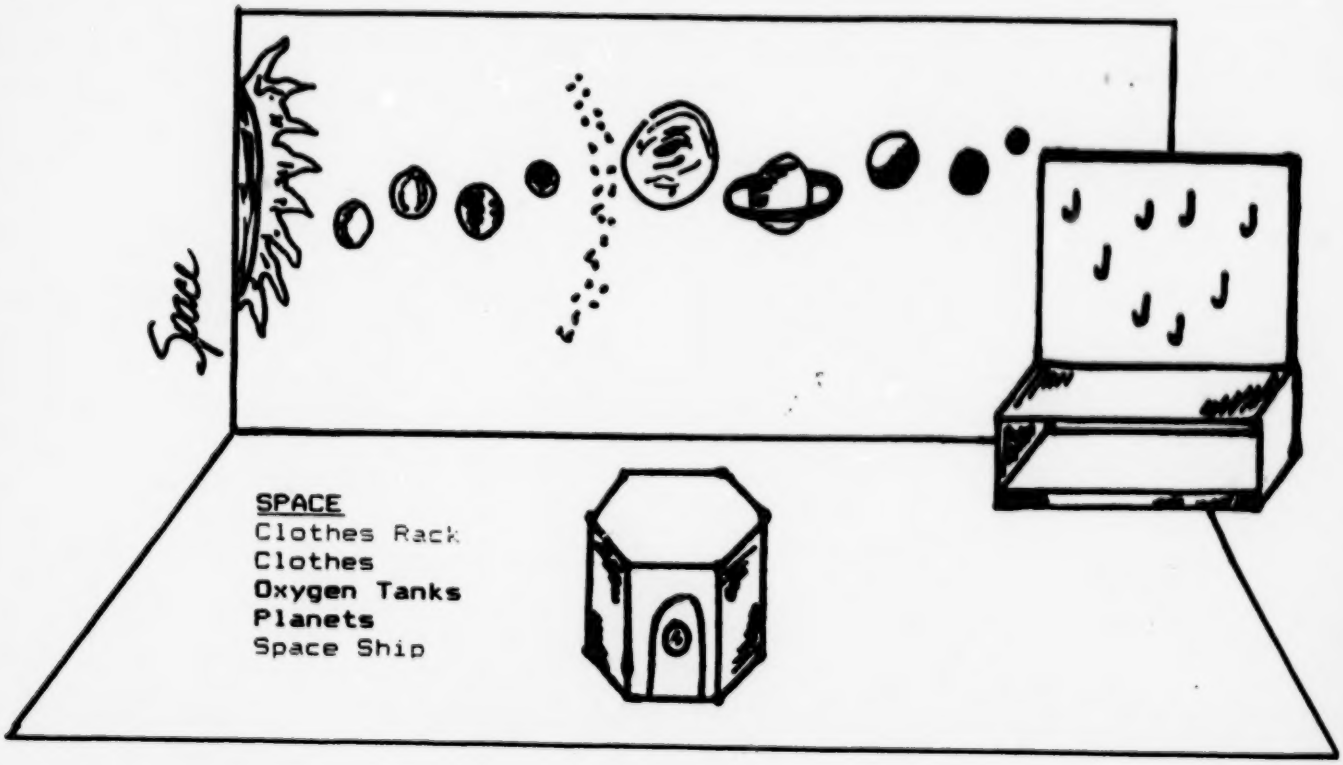

Kitchen/Restaurant
MATERIALS
BOLD=TEACHER/CHILD MADE
KITCHEN/RESTAURANT
Refrigerator
Oven
Sink
Clothes Rack
Table
Utensils
Food
Clothes

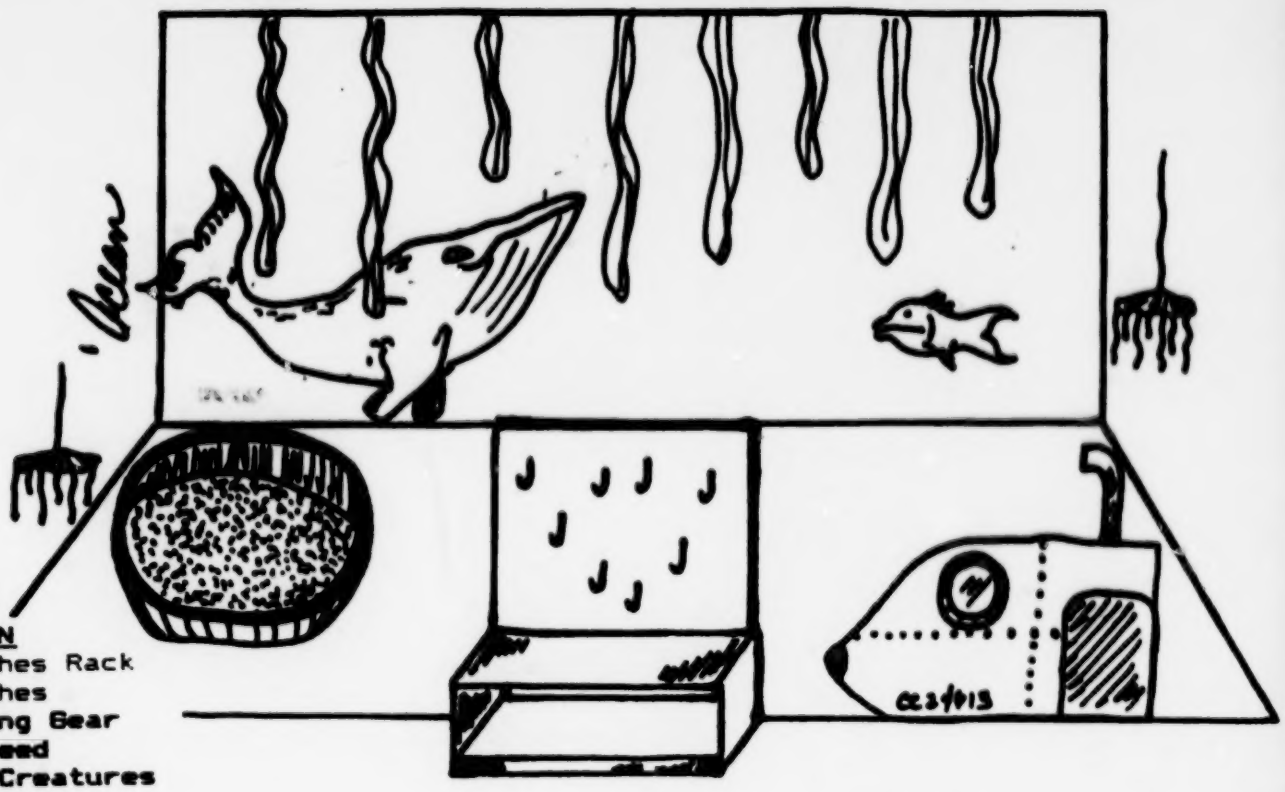

Office
OFFICE
Refrigerator
Table
Clothes Rack
Paper
Pencils/Pens
Typewriter
Clothes
Telephone


Animal Hospital
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Refrigerator
Table
Clothes Rack
Cages
Doctor's Supplies
Animals
Clothes

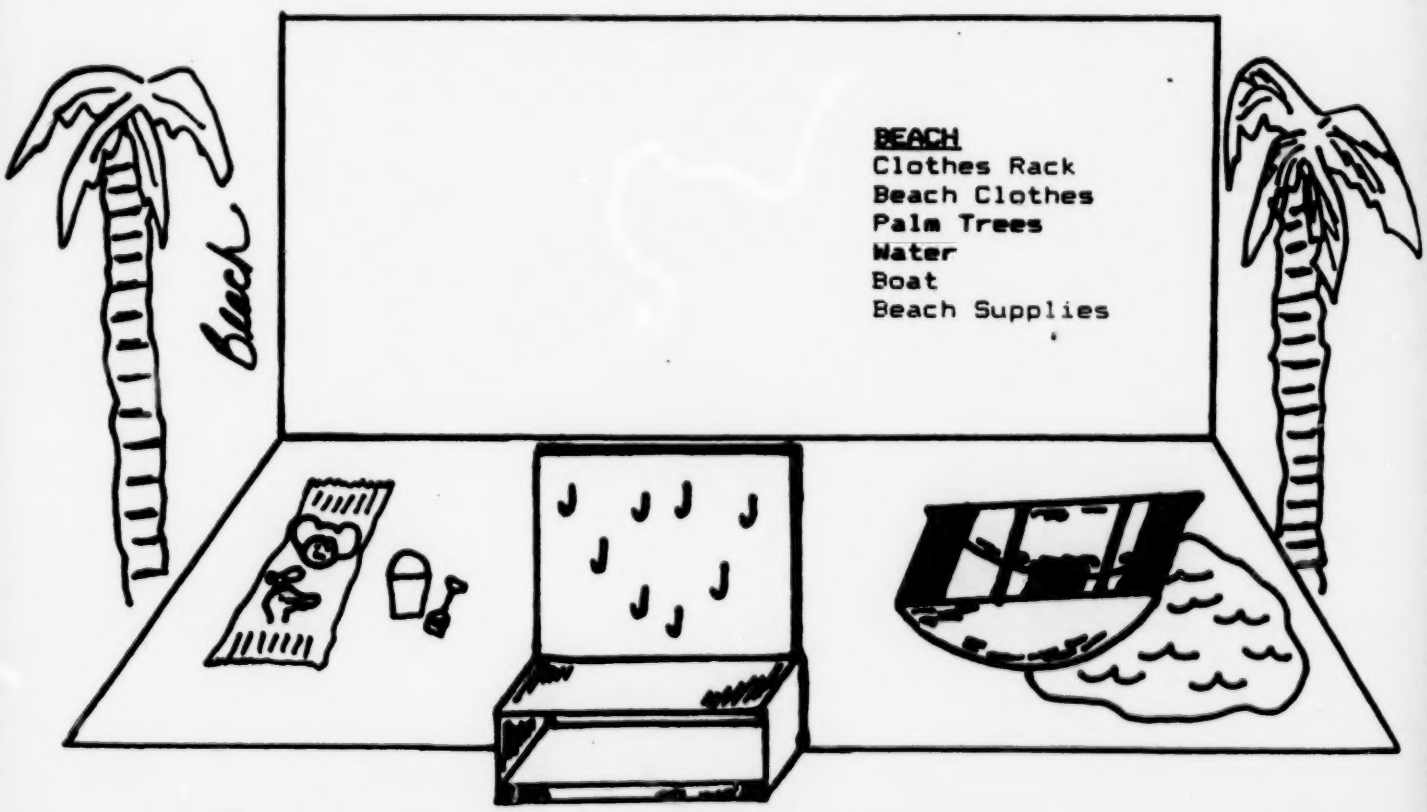

Campground
CAMPGROUND
Boat
Lake
Campfire
Picnic Table
Tent/Cabin
Food
Cooking Utensils
Clothes Rack
Clothes


Rain Forest
RAIN FOREST
Trees
Vines
River
Boat
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Animals

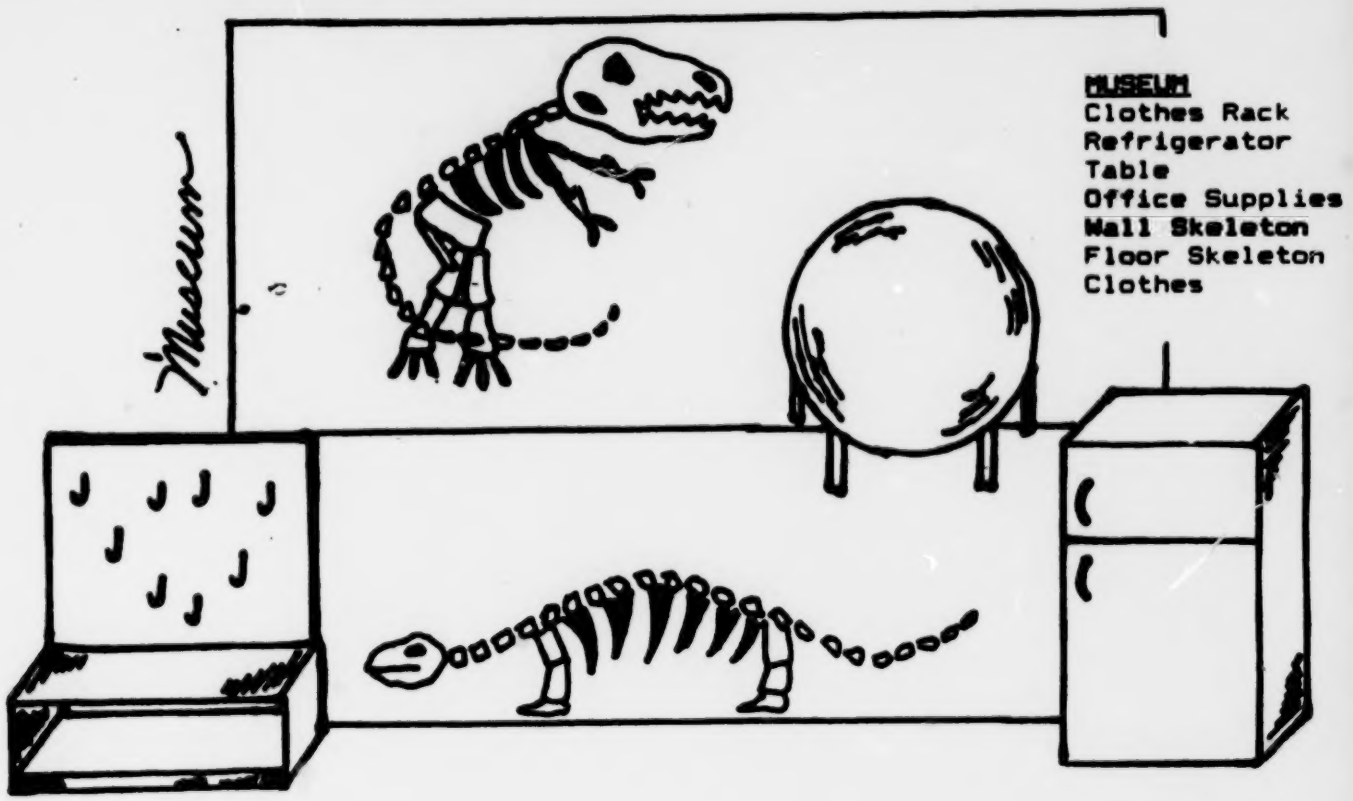

Space
SPACE
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Oxygen Tanks
Planets
Space Ship



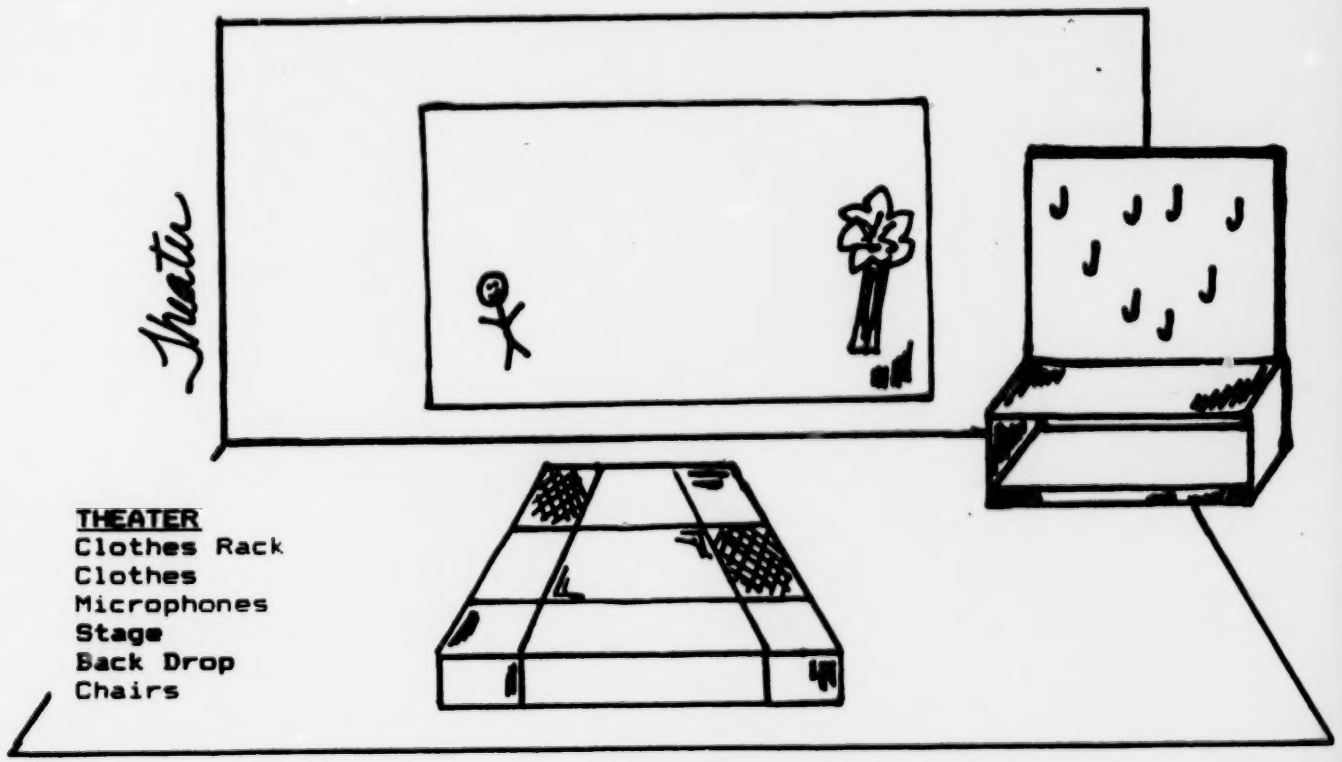
OCEAN
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Diving Gear
Seaweed
Sea Creatures
Submarine
Sand



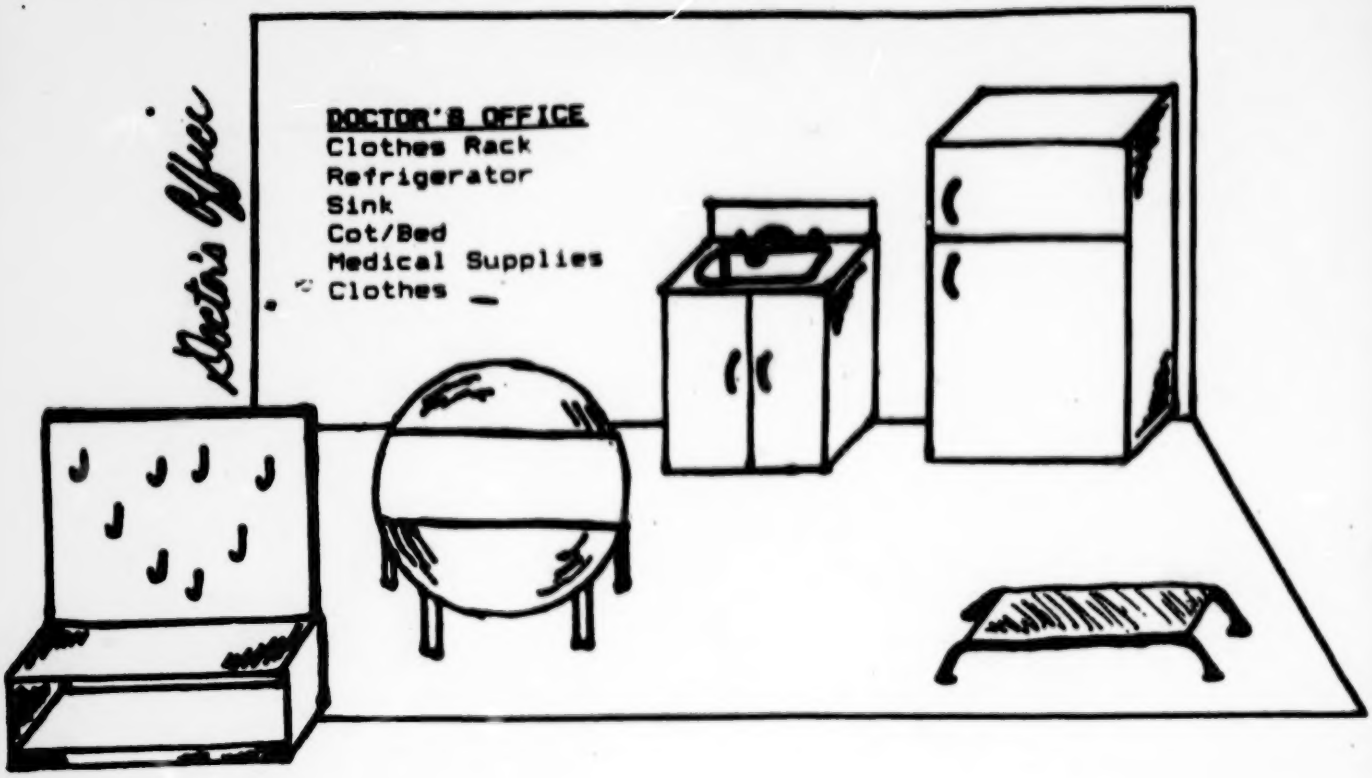
BEACH
Clothes Rack
Beach Clothes
Palm Trees
Water
Boat
Beach Supplies

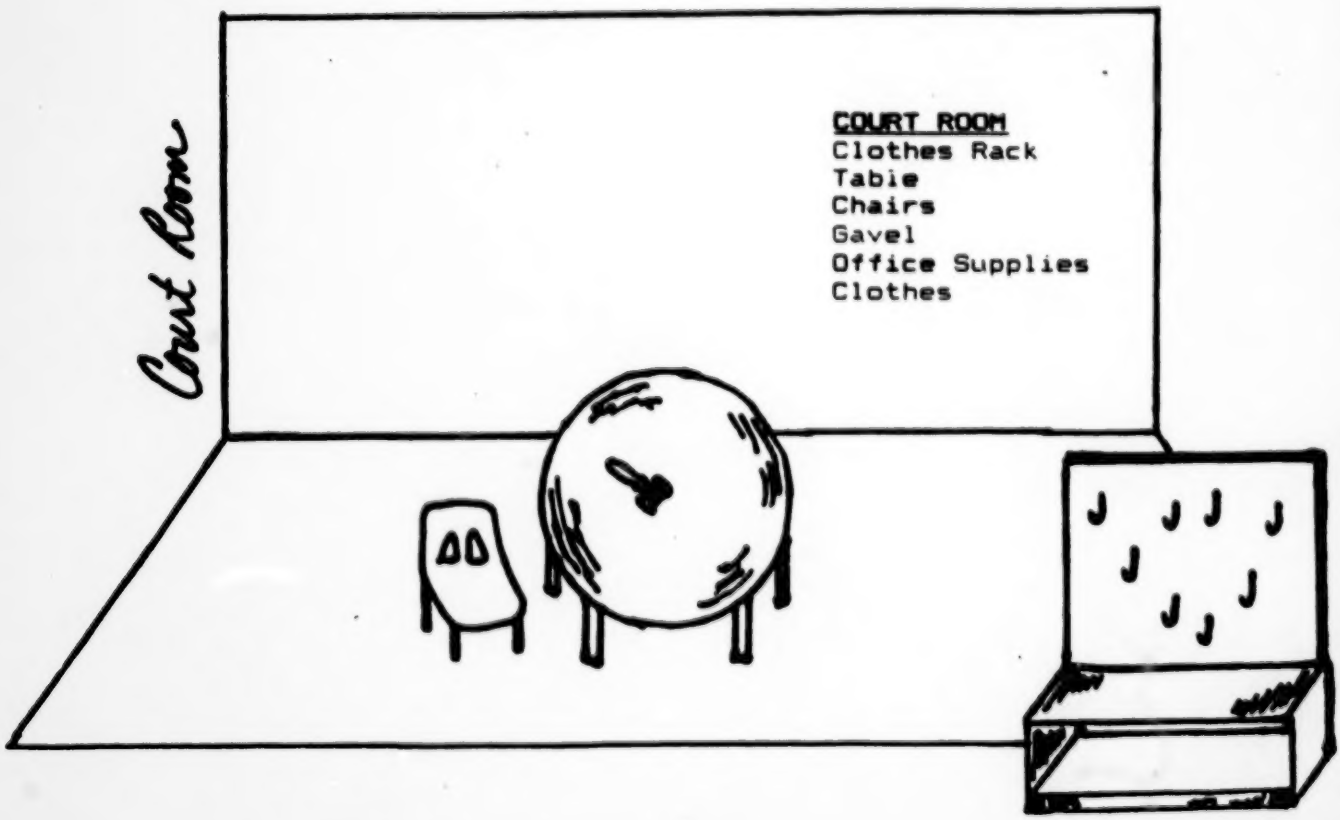


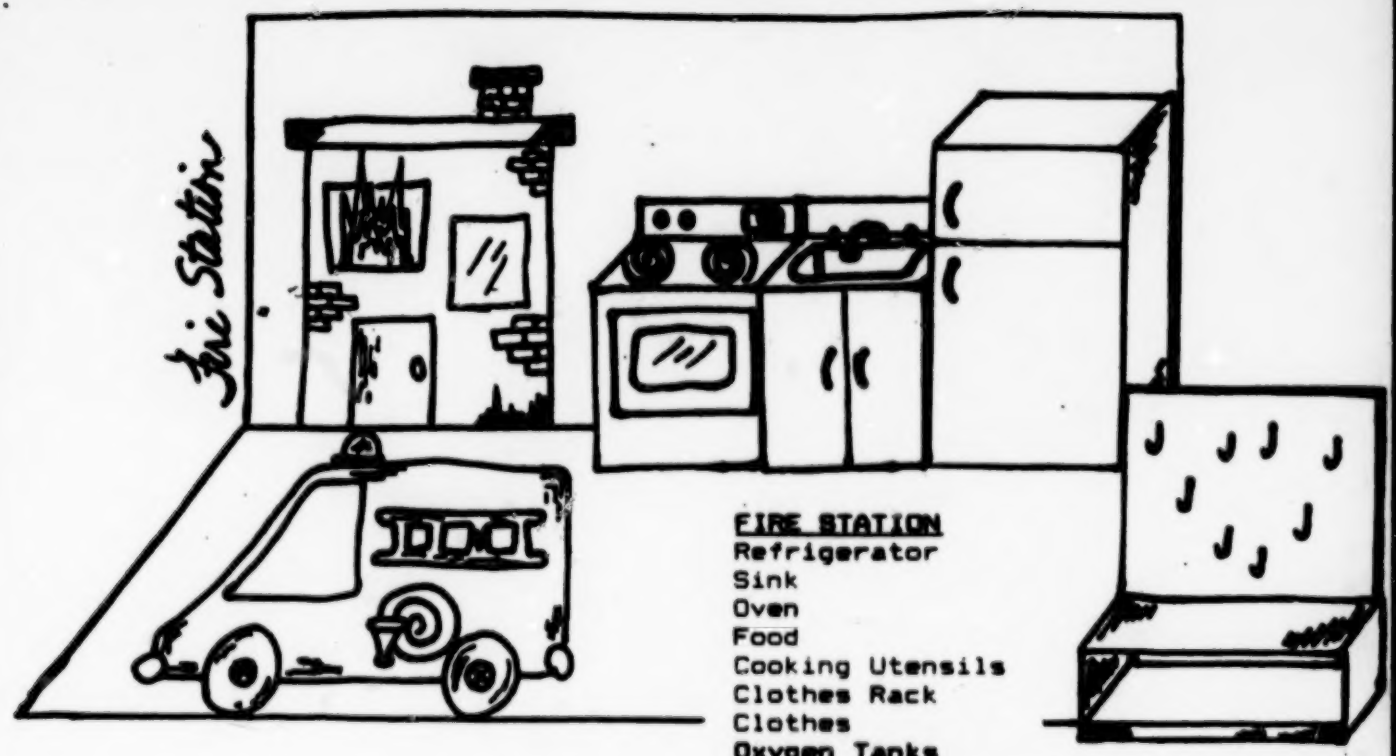
MUSEUM
Clothes Rack
Refrigerator
Table
Office Supplies
Wall Skeleton
Floor Skeleton
Clothes



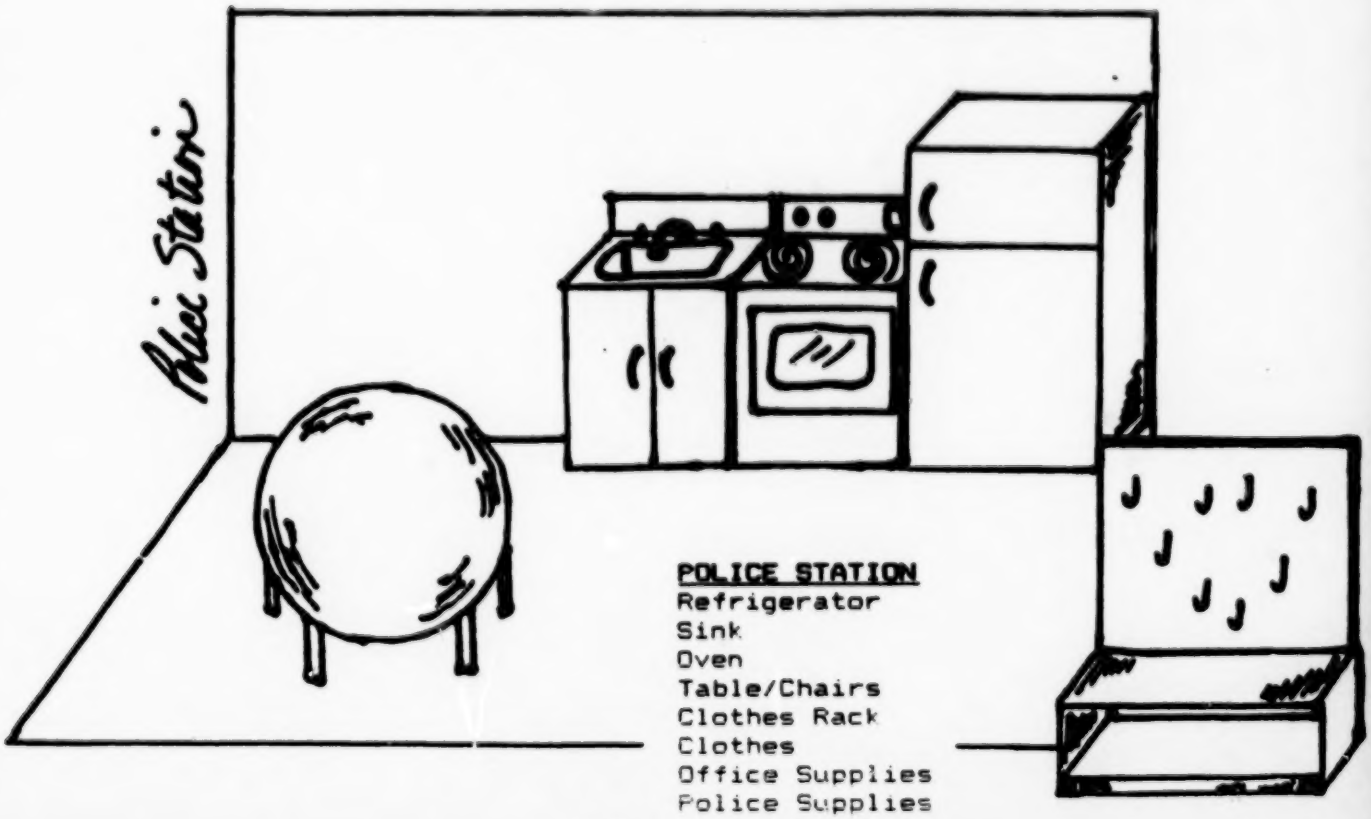
THEATER
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Microphones
Stage
Back Drop
Chairs


Doctor's Office
DOCTOR'S OFFICE
Clothes Rack
Refrigerator
Sink
Cot/Bed
Medical Supplies
Clothes

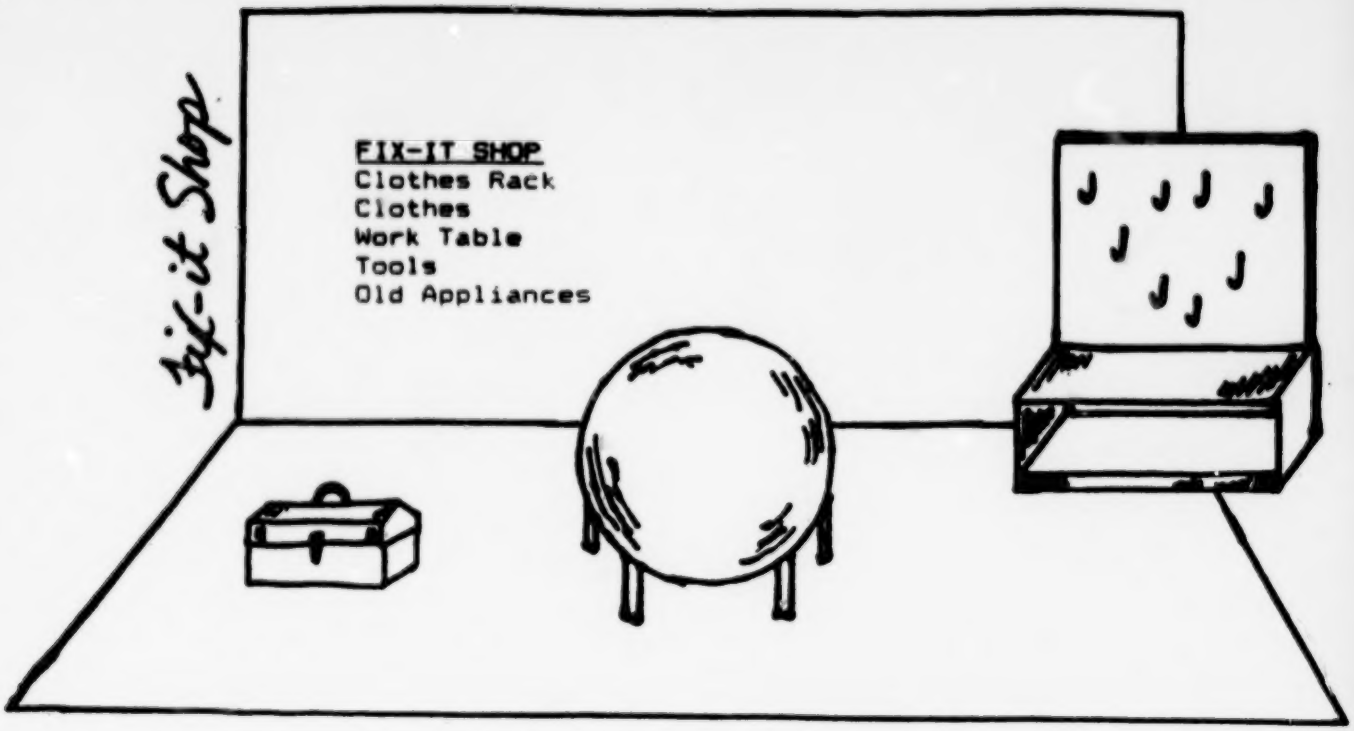

Court Room
COURT ROOM
Clothes Rack
Table
Chairs
Gavel
Office Supplies
Clothes

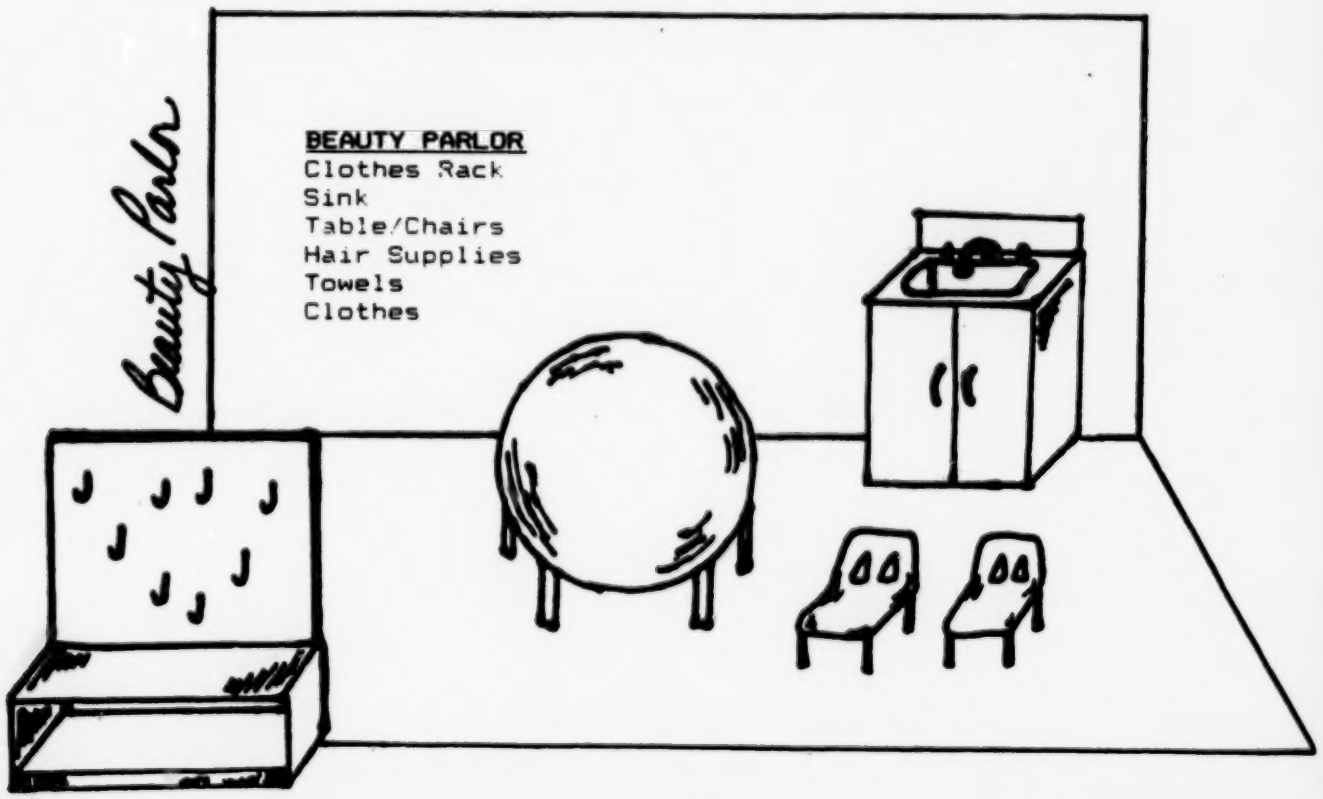


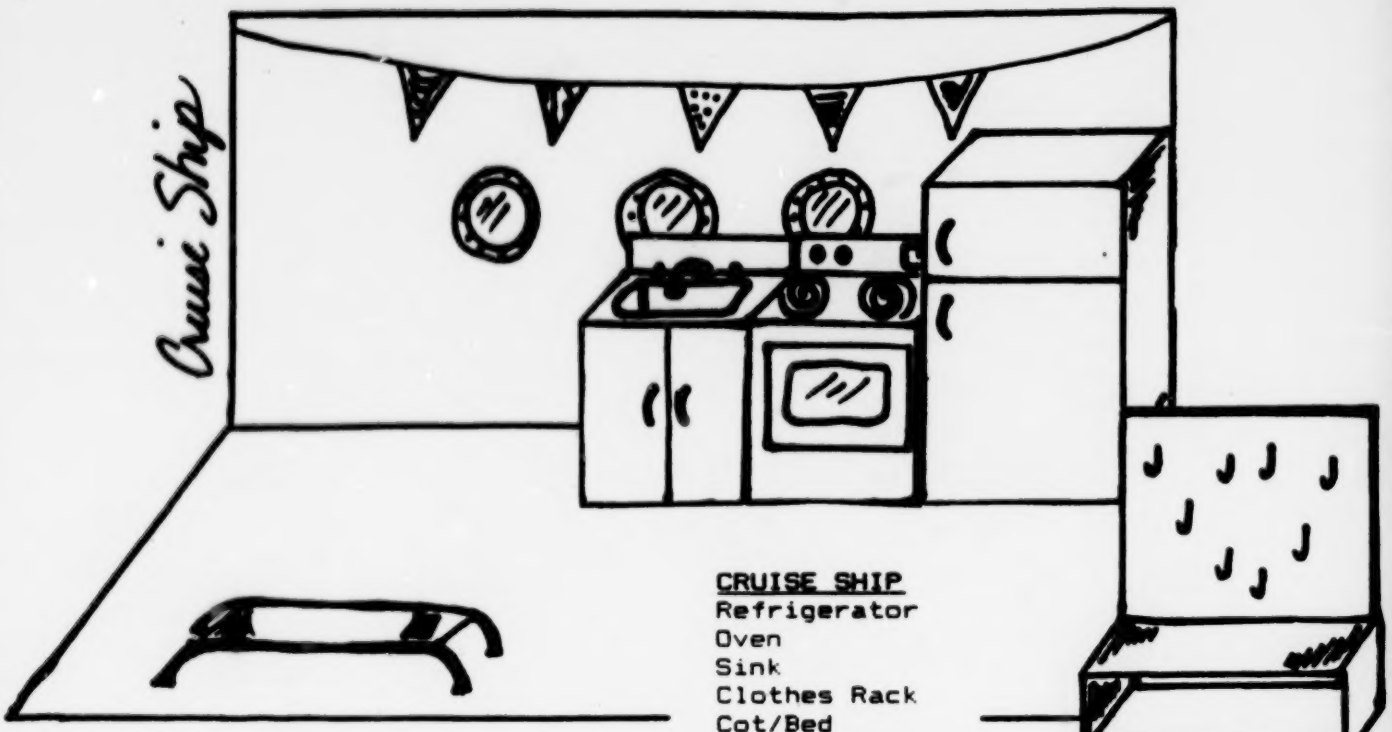
FIRE STATION
Refrigerator
Sink
Oven
Food
Cooking Utensils
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Oxygen Tanks
Fire Equipment
Burning Building
Fire Engine



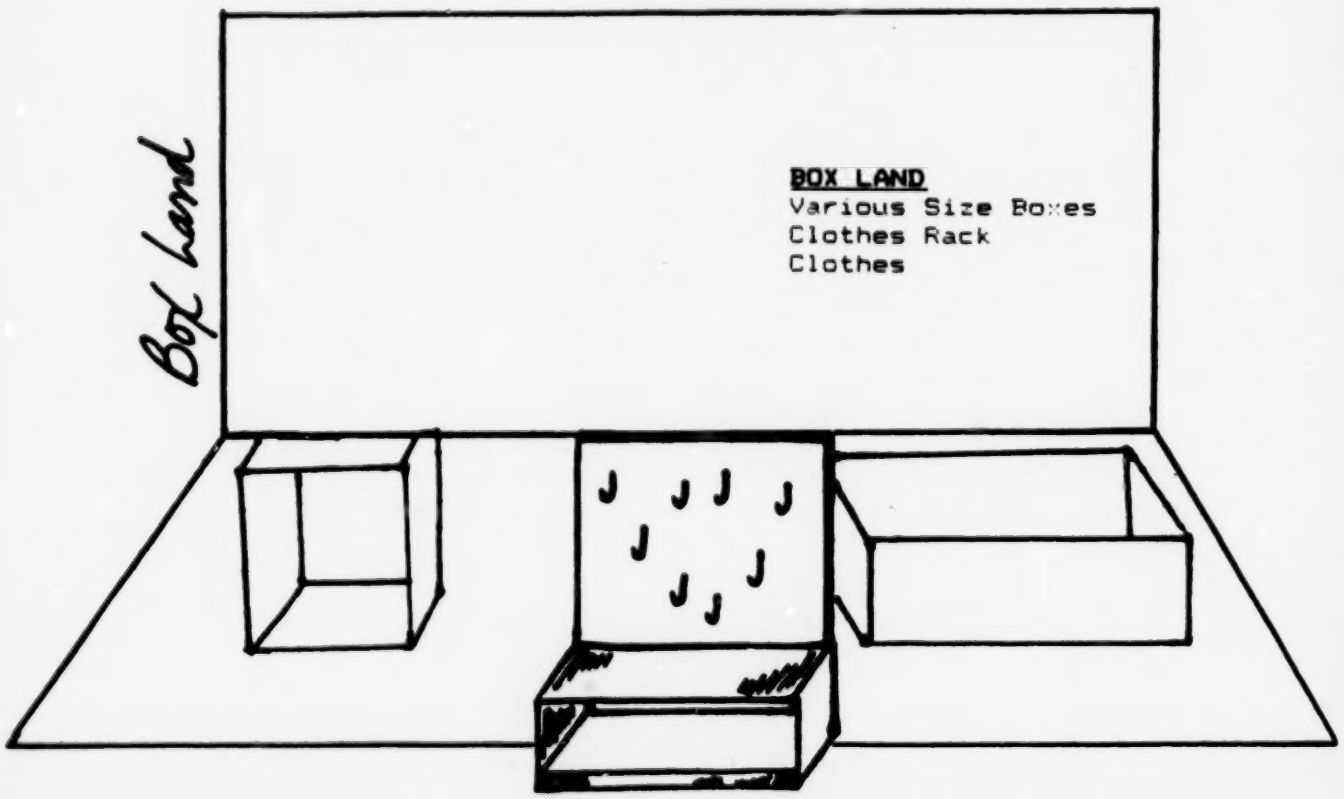
POLICE STATION
Refrigerator
Sink
Oven
Table/Chairs
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Office Supplies
Police Supplies


Fix-it Shop
FIX-IT SHOP
Clothes Rack
Clothes
Work Table
Tools
Old Appliances


Beauty Parlor
BEAUTY PARLOR
Clothes Rack
Sink
Table/Chairs
Hair Supplies
Towels
Clothes



CRUISE SHIP
Refrigerator
Oven
Sink
Clothes Rack
Cot/Bed
Port Holes
Festive Flags
Clothes
Luggage



BOX LAND
Various Size Boxes
Clothes Rack
Clothes